

United States Department of

# COMMERCE

# NEWS

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ECONOMICS  
AND  
STATISTICS  
ADMINISTRATION

Bureau of the Census

This release contains sensitive economic  
data not to be released before 10:00 a.m. Tuesday,  
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## **Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products January 2002**

The Bureau of the Census, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary January steel imports were **\$1.0 billion (2.3 million metric tons)**. This was an increase of \$0.1 billion (0.4 million metric tons) from the preliminary December 2001 totals of \$0.8 billion (1.9 million metric tons).

The December to January change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected increases primarily in blooms, billets and slabs; reinforcing bars; and hot dipped galvanized sheets and strips. Decreases occurred primarily in cold rolled sheets and wire rods. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected increases primarily with Brazil, Canada, and Japan. Decreases occurred primarily with Mexico and Argentina.

The year to date final statistics through December of 2001 showed steel imports of 27.4 million metric tons, a decrease of 7.1 million metric tons from the 34.4 million metric tons through December 2000. The largest commodity decreases were in hot rolled sheets; blooms, billets and slabs; heavy structural shapes; and plates in coils. The largest commodity increases were in line pipe greater than sixteen inches in diameter, oil country goods, and cold rolled sheets. The largest country decreases were with Ukraine, India, China, and Taiwan. The largest country increases were with Turkey and Russia.

### **Notes:**

**The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.**

*Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: [www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/](http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/). On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.*

*The next release is March 26, 2002*

